

**In the Matter Of:**

*AUTUMN CORDELLIONE*

-v-

*COMMISSIONER, INDIANA DEPT. OF CORRECTION*

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**Autumn Cordellioné**

*February 08, 2024*

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
3 EVANSVILLE DIVISION

4 JONATHAN RICHARDSON a.k.a. )  
5 AUTUMN CORDELLIONÉ, )  
6 Plaintiff, ) Case No.  
7 -v- ) 3:23-cv-135-RLY-CSW  
8 COMMISSIONER, INDIANA )  
9 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, )  
10 in her official capacity, )  
11 Defendant. )

12 The videotaped deposition upon oral  
13 examination of JONATHAN RICHARDSON a.k.a.  
14 AUTUMN CORDELLIONÉ, a witness produced and sworn  
15 before me, Sherry D. Lenn, RPR, and Notary Public in  
16 and for the County of Warrick, State of Indiana, taken  
17 on behalf of the Defendant at the Branchville  
18 Correctional Facility, 21390 Old State Road 37,  
19 Branchville, Indiana, on February 8, 2024, at  
20 9:24 a.m., pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil  
21 Procedure.  
22  
23

24 STEWART RICHARDSON & ASSOCIATES  
25 Registered Professional Reporters  
(800)869-0873

APPEARANCES

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

Kenneth J. Falk, Esq.  
Stevie J. Pactor, Esq.  
ACLU OF INDIANA  
1031 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
kfalk@aclu-in.org  
spactor@aclu-in.org

FOR THE DEFENDANT:

Alexander R. Carlisle, Esq.  
Katherine A. Meltzer, Esq.  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Indiana Government Center South, 5th Floor  
302 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
alexander.carlisle@atg.in.gov  
katherine.meltzer@atg.in.gov

VIDEOGRAPHER:

Shawn Weyerbacher

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1 VIDEOGRAPHER: We're are going on the record  
2 at 9:24 a.m. Central Time. Today's date is  
3 February 8th, 2024. The location is 21390 State  
4 Road 37, Branchville, Indiana. This is the  
5 video-recorded deposition of Autumn Cordellioné  
6 otherwise known as Jonathan Richardson. The case  
7 is filed in the United States District Court,  
8 Southern District of Indiana, Evansville Division.  
9 Cause Number is 3:23-cv-135-RLY-MJD in the matter  
10 of Autumn Cordellioné versus Commissioner, Indiana  
11 Department of Corrections.

12 The videographer is Shawn Weyerbacher in  
13 association with Stewart Richardson. The court  
14 reporter is Sherry Lenn, also in association with  
15 Stewart Richardson. Counsel may now state their  
16 appearances for the record and the reporter may  
17 then swear in the witness.

18 MR. CARLISLE: Good morning. Alex Carlisle  
19 for Commissioner, Indiana Department of Correction.

20 MR. FALK: Kent Falk and Stevie Pactor for  
21 Autumn Cordellioné. And I apologize to the  
22 videographer. I must have given you an old  
23 caption. The -- the last initials on the caption  
24 are not MJD anymore, they're CSW.

25

1 JONATHAN RICHARDSON aka AUTUMN CORDELLIONÉ,  
2 called as a witness by the Defendant, having been first  
3 duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

4 EXAMINATION

5 QUESTIONS BY MR. CARLISLE

6 Q Good morning, ma'am.

7 A Good morning.

8 Q How are you?

9 A Not bad, sir.

10 Q Okay. My name is Alex Carlisle. I'm a Deputy  
11 Attorney General for the State of Indiana. I  
12 represent the Defendant Commissioner in this case.

13 Do you understand that?

14 A Yes, I do.

15 Q Can you spell your name?

16 A J-o-n-a-t-h-a-n R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s-o-n, and the --  
17 Autumn Cordellioné is A-u-t-u-m-n  
18 C-o-r-d-i-l-l-i-o-n-e [sic].

19 Q What's your DOC number?

20 A Twelve seventy-six thirty. 127630.

21 Q Where are you housed?

22 A I am housed in Branchville Correctional Facility in  
23 E Dorm 1124.

24 Q Have you ever been deposed before?

25 A No.

1 Q The purpose of a deposition is to ask questions and  
2 answer them under oath. Do you understand that?

3 A Yes, I do.

4 Q Do you understand that when you're under oath you  
5 have to tell the truth?

6 A Uh-huh. Yes, I -- yes, I do. Sorry. No um-hums.

7 Q I see you've been well prepared. Do you understand  
8 that we are under oath in a deposition; it's the  
9 same as if you were in front of a judge or a jury?

10 A Yes, I do.

11 Q Your attorneys are here today. They may have  
12 objections to my questions. You still have to  
13 answer the question unless they direct you not to.  
14 Do you understand?

15 A Yes, I do.

16 Q If I ask a confusing question, which will happen,  
17 just ask for clarification.

18 A Thank you so much.

19 Q If you answer, I'll assume that you understood the  
20 question.

21 A Understood.

22 Q If you need a break at any time, that's perfectly  
23 fine. Just let me know. The only thing I ask is  
24 that we finish a line of questioning before we  
25 break. Is that okay?



1 A Yep. That's fine.

2 Q Please answer with yeses or noes.

3 A No yeps. My bad. Bad vernacular.

4 Q And I am going to try my best not to talk over you.  
5 I'd just ask that you extend me the same courtesy  
6 for the court reporter's purposes. Okay?

7 A Yes, I will.

8 Q How did you prepare for this deposition?

9 A My attorneys spoke with me of possible questions  
10 that may be asked and prepared me on the way that I  
11 should answer and the type of vernacular I should  
12 use.

13 Q Besides your attorneys, did you speak with anyone  
14 else about this deposition?

15 A I had mentioned to my girlfriend that I had an  
16 upcoming but not specifics. I also have a few  
17 friends in the cell house that I told them I'm  
18 heading to a deposition today.

19 Q Who is your girlfriend?

20 A Her name is Jannelle Flessas. Flessas is  
21 F-l-e-s-s-a-s. Jannelle is J-a-n-n-e-l-l-e.

22 Q How long have you been dating Jannelle?

23 A For almost a year.

24 Q Where did you meet her?

25 A Through another offender in New Castle Correctional

1 Facility.

2 Q What did you tell her about this deposition?

3 A I simply told her that I would have to deal with  
4 people likely not referring to me in my proper  
5 pronouns, and I was going to be stressed. And she  
6 offered me moral support in that regard.

7 Q You mentioned spoke to some friends about this  
8 deposition, right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Who are those friends?

11 A Dang it. I know their illegal names, but you need  
12 a legitimate name, so that's why I'm taking a  
13 moment. Dang it, I don't know Blood's real name.

14 Q Blood?

15 A His -- yeah. That's his nickname, Blood. I also  
16 spoke to Carolina, and I'm pretty sure that's not  
17 his real name, and my bunky. I have no idea. I  
18 don't get to know people often, so he just sleeps  
19 above me.

20 Q You don't know his name?

21 A No. And that's all I can -- oh, I also spoke to my  
22 sergeant, Sergeant Horsting, in the dorm. She  
23 gives me a point of view other than my own, which  
24 is nice.

25 Q Can you spell that name?

1 A H-o-r-s-t-i-n-g.

2 Q Blood or Carolina, are either of them transgender?

3 A Oh, no. I'm currently the only transgender in the  
4 dorm that I know of.

5 Q And how many are in your dorm, would you say?

6 A Almost 150 people. It fluctuates a lot.

7 Q Did you review any documents in preparation for  
8 your deposition?

9 A I read over everything that's been sent to me by my  
10 lawyer just so I could be mentally prepared.

11 Q Which documents did you review?

12 A Dr. Letner's deposition, Dr. Schetner's deposition,  
13 Dr. Ettner's deposition, and also my beginning  
14 reasons for filing.

15 Q When you say your beginning reasons for filing,  
16 what do you mean?

17 A What was originally filed as the very first  
18 document to start the cause number, that's what I  
19 meant.

20 Q The complaint?

21 A Yes.

22 Q You mentioned someone named Letner. Do you mean  
23 Dr. Levine?

24 A Levine. My bad. I just learned his name, so --

25 Q And did you review his report?

1 A I reviewed his report, his opinion, his entire  
2 thing that was presented as far as what was given  
3 to me.

4 Q Okay. Anything else?

5 A No, not really. A little meditation.

6 Q Do you meditate a lot?

7 A I do. That and spirituality is a big part of my  
8 mental health, keeping it in check.

9 Q Are you on any drugs or substances that would  
10 impair your cognitive function?

11 A No, I am not.

12 Q When I asked you to spell your name, you said --  
13 you spelled Jonathan Richardson?

14 A Uh-huh.

15 Q And that's your --

16 A Oh, yes. Yes.

17 Q Thank you. You caught me. That's your legal name?

18 A That's my legal name, and I figured since you're  
19 doing the deposition, that is the name you would  
20 like me to start with.

21 Q And your legal gender marker is male?

22 A Currently, yes.

23 Q You identify as what?

24 A I identify as a transgender woman. Feminine.

25 Q And your preferred pronouns?

1 A She, her.

2 Q Now you've tried to get your name and gender marker  
3 changed, right?

4 A Yes. I actually saw a Zoom visit Tuesday and was  
5 denied by Adriana [sic] Pope. Not denied. She  
6 objected for the State, and so I'm waiting on that  
7 now.

8 Q Do you know Adrienne Pope is counsel of record on  
9 this case for the commissioner?

10 A Yes. It was surprising but not unexpected.

11 Q All right. You filed a petition in Madison County,  
12 Indiana, to get a name and gender change; is that  
13 correct?

14 A Yes, but they denied me because of the name change,  
15 not -- the gender marker was thrown into the whole  
16 denial. And I was unable to contact them because  
17 New Castle missed numerous court dates over phone,  
18 and so they just ruled without me being there.

19 (Exhibit 59.)

20 Q Okay. If you could look at Exhibit 59.

21 A Of course. Thank you.

22 MR. CARLISLE: It's Tab 12. Counsel, I'm  
23 sorry, there's no actual tabs, but it's toward the  
24 end.

25 MR. FALK: Okay.

1 A So do I just go forward in here or is it under  
2 here? Oh, my bad. That's --

3 Q (Indicating.)

4 A Thank you so much. All right.

5 Q Ma'am, this is the -- some of the court records  
6 from the Madison County case you just mentioned.  
7 Do you see the case number up there at the top is  
8 48C01-2208-MI-278?

9 A Yes, I do.

10 Q Okay. And if you could go to the last page of this  
11 set.

12 A Right here (indicating)?

13 Q Correct. This is the order you referenced denying  
14 your petition.

15 A Yes.

16 Q And this petition denies both the name change and  
17 the gender change request, correct?

18 A Yes, it does.

19 Q And the Court wrote that it dismisses this cause  
20 pursuant to IC 34-28-2-1.5, correct?

21 A Yes, it does.

22 (Exhibit 57.)

23 Q Okay. If you could look at Exhibit 57 now.

24 A Okay.

25 MR. CARLISLE: It will be two before that one,

1 Counsel.

2 A I'll try to keep this in order for you. There we  
3 are. Oh, 57.

4 Q I understand you filed another name and gender  
5 petition in Perry County, correct?

6 A Yes, I did.

7 Q And --

8 A No. I would like to amend what I just said. I  
9 apologize.

10 Q Yeah.

11 A I actually only filed a gender marker change. I  
12 just had to cross out the name part because it was  
13 a typo on the form.

14 Q So the Perry County case is related only to your  
15 request for a gender --

16 A Marker change, yes.

17 Q -- marker? And if you see the first page of this  
18 exhibit, the Bates stamp is Plaintiff 23; is that  
19 correct?

20 A Yes, it is.

21 Q Do you see the case number at the top is  
22 62C01-2309-MI-493?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And I understand you filed this under seal?

25 A Yes, I did.

1 Q And we received these documents in discovery, as  
2 indicated by the plaintiff Bates numbers on the  
3 bottom right corner, correct?

4 A Yes, you did.

5 Q If you could go to Plaintiff 38.

6 A I am now there.

7 Q And is this the petition you filed to seal the case  
8 from public access?

9 A Yes, I did.

10 Q And I understand that you filed a memorandum at  
11 Plaintiff 40 in support of your petition to seal?

12 A Yes, I did.

13 Q Is this a form you filed from Indiana Legal  
14 Services?

15 A Yes, the LGBT Project of Indiana Legal Services.

16 Q And this memo essentially argues that your Perry  
17 County case should be kept under seal because you  
18 fear that public disclosure to your trans identity  
19 would put you at risk of harm?

20 A Yes. Of course that ship sailed a little bit with  
21 this entire lawsuit.

22 Q Okay. So are -- are you referring to --

23 A But I asked originally for this before this ever  
24 began.

25 Q So are you referring to the lawsuit in the Southern



1 .District that you're taking a deposition on right  
2 now?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And what do you mean that ship has sailed by  
5 filing this lawsuit?

6 A The news media is aware of it and broadcasts it and  
7 it's all over the internet. So I -- well, people  
8 will always know that I used to be born a male.

9 Q You mentioned news media. Have you read any news  
10 articles about you?

11 A Some local newspapers, The Indianapolis Star, only  
12 because other offenders brought it to my attention,  
13 as well as Fox News, The Gutfeld Report reamed me  
14 pretty good.

15 Q Fox News and The Gutfeld Report?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Were those online articles?

18 A No. That was on TV. I apologize.

19 Q So you've seen newspaper articles?

20 A Yes.

21 Q In print?

22 A In print.

23 Q Have you seen any articles online?

24 A No. I do not have access to online service.

25 Q Then it sounds like you've watched cable news and

1 saw a story about you?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And how many stories on cable news did you see?

4 A Just one. It was brought to my attention by an  
5 officer in the dorm.

6 Q And the Indy Star article, is that the only  
7 newspaper article you read?

8 A Yes. I heard there was other ones, but I -- I'm  
9 getting to see what's going on all the time. What  
10 the news has to say isn't always the truth.

11 Q What was your reaction to reading the newspaper  
12 article and seeing the cable news?

13 A I felt like they didn't know me and they didn't  
14 know what kind of suffering I was going through,  
15 and they just wanted to make me into the next  
16 sensational thing to argue about and make their own  
17 political views on.

18 Q Any other reactions?

19 A Well, I cried a little bit that night.

20 Q Anything else?

21 A That -- that's it.

22 Q Did you -- do you like the attention that this  
23 lawsuit has brought?

24 A Absolutely not. For me this was a personal journey  
25 to become who I am and have always been but in a

1 legal sense and in a physical way, but now it's  
2 become some thing for other people to watch and  
3 judge.

4 Q Apart from your legal name, you prefer the name  
5 Autumn Evangeline Cordellioné?

6 A Yes, I do.

7 Q Did I pronounce that correctly?

8 A Actually, yeah. Cordellioné, you're correct, yes,  
9 and the Evangeline. Thank you.

10 Q Where does that name come from? And let's start  
11 with Autumn.

12 A I had a girlfriend who was the first person to ever  
13 know that I was a girl. I didn't have terms for it  
14 as transgender. She was in my high school in Terre  
15 Haute Central High. I think it was Central or it  
16 might have been South. So long ago. We dated.  
17 She was gothic. I was gothic. And she accepted  
18 that I was a girl and loved me for it.

19 The last I heard, she'd passed away. I don't  
20 know if that's true. We lost contact. So I did  
21 that as an homage to her memory.

22 Q So you dated Autumn in high school?

23 A In high school. Her name was Autumn McCreery.

24 Q McCreery?

25 A Uh-huh, M-c-C-r-e-e-r-y.

1 Q You were both Goth?

2 A Yeah, gothic. It was a type of lifestyle. All  
3 black --

4 Q You'd shop at --

5 A -- white makeup.

6 Q Go to Hot Topic?

7 A Exactly.

8 Q She accepted you were a girl; is that what you  
9 said?

10 A Yes.

11 Q How did you tell her you were a girl?

12 A Basically we shared makeup, talked boys, and she  
13 was, like, you're, like, my best friend. I'm,  
14 like, well, can we date, and she was, like, sure.  
15 And then when it came time for anything more  
16 sensual, I was always very negative towards  
17 engaging in anything physical with my male anatomy.

18 Q Did you ever do anything sensual, as you said?

19 A Not with her. Later on in my life, I have been  
20 married and I have had other girlfriends, and I  
21 just tried to conform to what I thought people  
22 wanted.

23 Q What was Ms. McCreery's reaction when you told her  
24 you were a girl?

25 A Well, she accepted me. She hugged me, told me that

1 it was fine. She's, like, I like girls, too. And  
2 so we dated for a little bit. I think we were more  
3 friends than anything, but I really -- like I said,  
4 she made my time special in high school.

5 Q So Ms. McCreery was the first person you had told  
6 you were transgender?

7 A I didn't use those exact words but the first person  
8 I openly expressed that I was a girl.

9 Q Who else did you tell you were transgender around  
10 this time?

11 A No one else.

12 Q And so you chose the name Autumn because?

13 A As an homage, a remembrance of her. I always  
14 thought it was a beautiful name.

15 Q What about Evangeline?

16 A Ah. See, I would have been named Evangeline to  
17 begin with because I love that name above all  
18 names. But you know the actress, Evangelina [sic]  
19 Jolie, so I -- I love her acting and I also loved  
20 her name, but I didn't want to name myself  
21 Evangeline to begin with because guess what my  
22 nickname would be, Eva. Ugh, no Eva. So I was  
23 like ah, Evangeline.

24 Q So is that an homage to Angelina Jolie?

25 A I guess it would be, yes. You take your moral

1 support and your heroes in life.

2 Q What do you like about Angelina Jolie?

3 A I remember her from the movie Hackers before all  
4 the surgeries and everything. And I was an avid  
5 person for hacking and revolution, and so it  
6 definitely fit my -- my generation, nineties child.  
7 So I liked her acting, and I thought she was great  
8 in the movie Hackers.

9 Q Speaking of being a nineties child, when were you  
10 born?

11 A [REDACTED], though technically that is a court-appointed  
12 birthday. So it can't actually be truthfully my  
13 real birthday.

14 Q Can you explain that?

15 A CPS in Texas came and took my siblings from abusive  
16 parents, found me there as a child, did not know  
17 that I was there, took me as well, and asked  
18 everyone in my family who exactly I was, and my  
19 sister related that I -- she was taking care of me.  
20 Mother came in, brought a baby, told her to take  
21 care of the baby, and she never remembered my  
22 mother even being pregnant. I don't look a lot  
23 like my siblings.

24 So when the Court took me, they gave an  
25 approximation of age and gave me a court-appointed

1 birthday, age, social security number, because I  
2 hadn't been apparently born in a hospital and was  
3 not reported at the time.

4 Q Is [REDACTED] accurate for your year of birth?

5 A Well, people tell me I look much younger than I am,  
6 so I would assume probably not.

7 Q Do you think Angelina Jolie is beautiful?

8 A I think that she is very beautiful in her heart,  
9 and I also think she's sexy as a person.

10 Q Do you want to look like her?

11 A Absolutely not.

12 Q All right. Cordellioné, where did that come from?

13 A Ah. Well, my family's original name, a least from  
14 what I was told, that our father's name was  
15 Cordell. And so I looked into it, and if my  
16 research was correct, it was a shortening of the  
17 Spanish name Cordellioné. I think it was actually  
18 Cordellione, but I changed it to Cordellioné  
19 because I like it better.

20 Q Are you talking about the name Calvin Paul Cordell?

21 A Yep.

22 Q Okay.

23 A That was my original name before I was adopted, and  
24 they changed my name to Jonathan Curtis Richardson.

25 Q So you -- your birth parents named you Calvin Paul

1 Cordell?

2 A That's the name I was -- the courts were given when  
3 they found me. Since there was no birth  
4 certificate, it was an unofficial name, I suppose.

5 Q So that was your first name?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And then later you were called Jonathan Richardson?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Have you gone by any other names?

10 A A lot of nicknames in prison but no other names.

11 Q Any other identities?

12 A No.

13 Q Do you have any other personalities?

14 A No.

15 Q Have you always had one personality?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Your entire life?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Never had a split personality?

20 A No.

21 Q What do they call you in prison as far as  
22 nicknames?

23 A Well, because of the incident of lighting my cell  
24 on fire with me, I was called Torch for the  
25 longest. Then I was also called GOAT for the



1 longest, GOAT like as in what they call basketball  
2 stars. I was given it by a Saxon Knight enforcer  
3 called Charles Cooper. Everybody called him  
4 Trooper, and he said I was GOAT, Greatest of All  
5 Time.

6 Q Okay. Torch. Let's start with Torch. You lit  
7 your cell on fire?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Why?

10 A I could not stand my body any longer, and I thought  
11 that if I just died, then I wouldn't have to keep  
12 suffering.

13 Q When was this?

14 A 2004 or '5, I believe.

15 Q Did anyone ever ask you why you lit your cell on  
16 fire around that time?

17 A I -- when my cell was on fire, they came and got  
18 me. I'd gone into shock. So they removed me out  
19 of the cell. My skin was hanging from my  
20 fingertips like flesh gloves. It was really bad.  
21 They took me to the hospital.

22 Whenever I finally arrived back at that  
23 facility, they put me in suicide watch. And a  
24 psychologist came by and inquired to why I lit my  
25 cell on fire. I explained to him that I -- I

1 didn't -- I don't know what they're talking about.  
2 And I think I might have even said I just want to  
3 die, but I didn't go into elaboration with the  
4 psych doctor at the time that I remember. I was  
5 actually on quite a bit of pain medication, so it's  
6 kind of hard to remember.

7 Q Were you trying to kill yourself?

8 A Yes.

9 Q GOAT. You said a Saxon Knight enforcer named you  
10 GOAT?

11 A Yeah. We were in PLUS together, Purposeful Living  
12 Unit Served. It's a program in prison.

13 Q Were you a member of the Saxon Knights?

14 A Absolutely not. My charge disqualifies me for any  
15 STG affiliation.

16 Q Okay.

17 A Not that I would want to anyways.

18 Q Can you explain what you mean by your charge  
19 disqualifies you for any STG affiliation?

20 A Any harm to a child whatsoever is viewed as the  
21 most heinous of crimes in prison. And we are  
22 usually taken advantage of by other offenders, and  
23 they would never have anyone with a sex offense or  
24 a child murder charge.

25 Q So you've never been a member of an STG while

1 incarcerated?

2 A No, I have not. I do not know if they have flagged  
3 me for one reason or another, but as far as I know,  
4 I'm not. They do what they want. I don't really  
5 get to look at confidential records.

6 Q Do you have reason to think someone flagged you for  
7 being an STG member?

8 A There are three things that can flag you as an STG  
9 member; hanging out with other STG affiliated  
10 flagged individuals, someone, and even if it's an  
11 offender, saying you are affiliated, and any staff  
12 reporting possession or control of items that are  
13 STG related. So I do not know if a staff or an  
14 offender had ever said anything, and I have hung  
15 out with STG-affiliated individuals, a lot of times  
16 not because of my choice. Again, I was raped quite  
17 a bit by white supremacist organizations.

18 Q You mentioned your -- your criminal conviction  
19 related to a child, correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You're serving a sentence for murder?

22 A Yes, I am.

23 Q You were convicted of murder in 2002?

24 A I believe it was 2002. It might have been 2001.

25 My -- my abstract said 2001 for sentencing.

1 Q You were convicted of murdering your 11-month-old  
2 stepdaughter?

3 A Yes. Her name was Faith.

4 Q Faith?

5 A Yep.

6 Q This was in Vanderburgh County?

7 A Yeah. Yeah, it was.

8 Q You were sentenced to 55 years?

9 A Yes. Yes, I was.

10 Q With credit time, your earliest possible release  
11 date is December 31st, 2027?

12 A Yes. Yes, it is.

13 Q Did you tattoo the name Faith on your body at any  
14 point in time?

15 A No, I did not. It was claimed that I did. They  
16 took photos, have reviewed them, could not find the  
17 tattoo. Tattoos do not just disappear. And I  
18 raised it in my trial that I had a tattoo of my  
19 friend, Andrew Buttrum, and his tattoo was still  
20 perfectly there and viewable. My lawyers brought  
21 this up during trial.

22 Q Did you write the name Faith on you in ink that  
23 wasn't permanent?

24 A No, I did not.

25 Q Did you carve the name Faith into you in any form?

1 A I never added the name Faith to my body in any  
2 form, whether carving, cutting, writing or anything  
3 like that, sir.

4 Q Do you know who alleged that you had tattooed Faith  
5 on your body?

6 A All I know is the State brought it up and said that  
7 I had, and I believe it was Andrew Buttrum who  
8 ultimately said that I did. Andrew Buttrum, they  
9 placed him into a suicide cell with me, and they  
10 did not know that he was testifying against me.  
11 And he was up for a theft from a hospital charge,  
12 and the State dropped that charge after his  
13 testimony.

14 MR. CARLISLE: Let's go off the record.

15 VIDEOGRAPHER: Going off the record at  
16 9:54 a.m.

17 (A brief recess was taken, and Ms. Meltzer  
18 joins the deposition.)

19 VIDEOGRAPHER: And we're back on the record at  
20 9:56 a.m.

21 Q Do you feel guilty about murdering your  
22 11-month-old stepdaughter?

23 MR. FALK: I'm going to object just for the  
24 record that it has nothing to do with the case, but  
25 obviously you can answer it.

1 A I -- yes, I -- I -- I will never be able to change  
2 nor be able to do anything in my life that will  
3 make up for that.

4 Q Are you still working through that guilt?

5 A Yes, but it's mine to bear for decisions made that  
6 will unfortunately affect everyone that was ever  
7 going to be in her life for the rest of their  
8 lives.

9 Q Are you currently employed at Branchville?

10 A Yes. I am in a -- a culinary arts class. It's a  
11 vocation, I believe.

12 Q Do you have a job?

13 A That's my job. They pay me for it.

14 Q Oh, they pay you? What are your duties in that  
15 job?

16 A To take tests, read books, make food.

17 Q How long have you been employed in the culinary  
18 arts program here?

19 A It would have just started on the 5th of February,  
20 this month.

21 Q Before the job here, you've had other kitchen jobs,  
22 right?

23 A Yes, I have.

24 Q And where were you employed in the kitchen?

25 A I almost always was employed as the baker or a

1 cook.

2 Q How many facilities have you worked as a baker or a  
3 cook?

4 A At least three.

5 Q Which facilities were they?

6 A CIF, which is outside Pendleton Correctional  
7 Facility, here at this facility, BCF, and in  
8 Pendleton. I think it's ICR or ISR.

9 Q Okay. Have you had any other jobs while  
10 incarcerated?

11 A I have had dorm detail jobs where basically I clean  
12 and sanitize. I worked in the brakes shop at CIF  
13 for, I think, maybe six months. And that's usually  
14 the majority of my jobs is cleaning or cooking.

15 Q When did you first realize you were transgender?

16 A I always knew I was different from at least age 6  
17 is as far back as I can remember. I always knew  
18 that I was a girl, and I didn't understand why my  
19 body didn't match what other girls' bodies did.  
20 But I came to understand what transgender was  
21 during my incarceration. It became more  
22 newsworthy. People talked about it more. And even  
23 then, I -- I was like, well, am I transgender or am  
24 I not transgender. It took awhile for me to be  
25 like, okay, I'm not just gay or I'm not just

1 bisexual, I'm not just a person who feels extremely  
2 a feminine. I'm someone who sees themselves as --  
3 as a girl and is a girl, and there's no other  
4 definition for it. And I've done a lot of research  
5 into non-binary, gender queer, and none of them fit  
6 me and make me feel complete.

7 Q So you always knew you were different; is that what  
8 you said?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. What do you mean by you always knew you were  
11 different?

12 A I always knew I was a girl. I used to wear my  
13 sister's clothing. I snuck into my mom's makeup,  
14 but I lived in a very Pentecostal house and that  
15 was absolutely a no-no. I always liked boys. I  
16 also liked girls, but I always wanted to be in a  
17 relationship. I wanted to kiss girls and boys at a  
18 very young age, and they were like ewww. But I  
19 always hung out with girls. My friends were almost  
20 always girls, because they understood me on a level  
21 that was just naturally innate to girls hanging out  
22 with girls.

23 Q Any other reasons?

24 A Just every time I looked at myself in the mirror  
25 growing up, I only ever saw myself as a girl.



1 Well, until I had to look anywhere that -- in my  
2 genitalia area, then I -- I'd have to see the fact  
3 that my body wasn't what it should be.

4 Q I hate to ask obvious questions, but when you say  
5 you looked at your body, what were you looking at?

6 A Well, you've got to change your clothes on -- when  
7 you're growing up, and you've got to go to gym and  
8 -- and when I was growing up, gym was taking  
9 showers in school. I don't know if that's still  
10 the case amongst others. I noticed that I had a  
11 penis and I -- it just felt wrong. My sister lived  
12 in my room and changed often, so I knew what I had  
13 was not what she had.

14 Q You said you always liked boys and girls?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And you wanted to kiss boys and girls at a very  
17 young age?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Why does that mean you're transgender as opposed to  
20 just bisexual?

21 A Bisexual? It -- it doesn't. It's just it was one  
22 of the many telling things that on a whole list  
23 that gave me the -- the understanding that I'm  
24 transgender. It was why I wanted to kiss girls,  
25 why I wanted to kiss boys. I wanted to be close to

1 somebody. I wanted to share my feelings, my hopes,  
2 my desires.

3 Q So it sounds like you just didn't have anyone you  
4 were close to growing up?

5 A Oh, I had plenty of people who I was close to.  
6 They weren't always close to me but I was close to  
7 them.

8 Q You mentioned sisters -- you would wear your  
9 sister's clothing?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And you would wear your mom's makeup?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Why do those indicate to you that you're  
14 transgender rather than you like cross dressing?

15 A Well, I never found any sexual excitement over  
16 wearing those clothes. I just felt right. And a  
17 lot of cross dressers find it as a sexual turn on.  
18 Most cross dressers are fetishes.

19 Q So it feels right to wear -- to -- it felt right to  
20 wear your sister's clothing and your mom's makeup?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Why doesn't that -- I mean, why is that an  
23 indication you're transgender, though? Why doesn't  
24 that just mean you like wearing the opposite sex  
25 clothes and make-up?

1 A Because when I put on the clothes, I could for a  
2 second realize the girl inside. It wasn't wearing  
3 it because I was like, oh, this will be neat. It  
4 was when I put it on for a moment or two I could be  
5 like, hey, I'm that girl and not just I'm a guy  
6 wearing girl clothes.

7 Q So is it the case that putting on women's clothes  
8 makes you feel like the woman you want to be?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. So is it the case that that's sufficient to  
11 feel like the woman you want to be?

12 A No, because even though I wear the clothes, it  
13 doesn't take away what's between my legs. I have  
14 to go out of my way to attempt to cover that, and  
15 you can't cover up the feeling of something like  
16 that.

17 Q If you could look at Exhibit 51, please.

18 (Exhibit 51.)

19 MS. PACTOR: Could you give me the Bates,  
20 please?

21 MR. CARLISLE: Yes, that would help. The  
22 Bates is State 6185 --

23 MS. PACTOR: Thank you.

24 MR. CARLISLE: -- which would be the third  
25 pack.

1 Q Do you know what this document is?

2 A I think I've seen it before. I can't remember  
3 specifically.

4 Q Okay. At the top you see it says "Gender  
5 Dysphoria/Transgender Protocol Attachment 1"?

6 A Is this from -- yes. Is this from New Castle? I  
7 think it's from New Castle.

8 Q You think it's from New Castle?

9 A Yeah. I think it was their intake of me whenever I  
10 got into the facility. They -- they did things  
11 differently than they do here for tracking  
12 transgenders in their facilities.

13 Q Okay. So you remember answering this document?

14 A Yes. Yes, I do.

15 MR. FALK: Yeah, I was going to say I'm not  
16 sure if you ever -- if she ever saw the document  
17 but maybe --

18 A No, but I remember some of these questions is all.

19 Q Okay. Yeah, my -- I want to clarify. The  
20 paragraphs at the bottom, for instance, State  
21 6185 --

22 A Yes.

23 Q -- is that your -- are those your words?

24 A May I take a second to read it?

25 Q Yes.

1 A I appreciate that. Yes. I do remember saying this  
2 to him as he dictated it into the computer. I  
3 cannot vouch for every part of the wording, though,  
4 because I said it and he typed it. He may have not  
5 typed exactly word for word what I said --

6 Q Okay. That's my question.

7 A -- but it is close.

8 Q So these responses within this document to the  
9 questions are what someone dictated as your  
10 answers?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And who dictated it; do you remember?

13 A All I know is I think it was the PREA coordinator  
14 at the time. I don't remember his name.

15 Q At New Castle?

16 A Yes, I believe so.

17 Q Okay. Do you remember approximately when you would  
18 have dictated these answers to the PREA  
19 coordinator?

20 A Well, the date on the paper says, but I don't  
21 remember exactly when, but the date says 10-21.

22 Q All right. But you do recall?

23 A Yes, I do recall having this -- a meeting and  
24 someone dictating the words down.

25 Q Okay. Tell me about your ex-wife? What's her

1 name?

2 A Linda Mason.

3 Q How long were you married?

4 A Six months.

5 Q How did you meet?

6 A I was working in a telecommunications -- you know,  
7 where people call people up and ask them to buy  
8 stuff. I had just quit. I was collecting my last  
9 check, and she was just starting. She was wearing  
10 a purple pinstriped suit with black boots and red  
11 hair. We got to talking. I was in my full Goth  
12 garb, and we struck -- struck a -- a comradery.  
13 And she asked me if I was dating anybody. I said,  
14 no, and she said would I like to go out. I said,  
15 absolutely. She gave me her address, and I showed  
16 up the next day for our date at her address.

17 Q That was your first date?

18 A Yes. Yes, it was. And only date.

19 Q One and only date, what do you mean?

20 A When I came over, she expected I had a car. I  
21 didn't. Well, she didn't have a car either. So  
22 she asked me to hang out, so I did. We sat there.  
23 We ate and hung out, talked through the night  
24 getting to know each other. She explained she had  
25 a child. I was like, well, that's cool. And her

1 child was currently, I think, out at her  
2 grandparents or her parents being baby-sat while --  
3 for her date. And I ended up spending the night  
4 with her. We didn't do anything sexual the first  
5 night. I just cuddled up to her, and we just spent  
6 time talking even in bed.

7 The next morning I went to Hardee's and got us  
8 a biscuits and gravy, brought it back. We ate it  
9 in bed. We did have sex then. And then I was  
10 like, well, I guess I should get home and she's  
11 like or you don't have to go home, you could just  
12 stay here, move in, and I literally moved in. A  
13 very young foolish decision.

14 Q So you had sex with her the morning following your  
15 first date?

16 A Yes.

17 Q You were married for six months, you said?

18 A Close to it, I believe.

19 Q And how soon after your first date were you  
20 married?

21 A Well, three months. Not very long.

22 Q So your relationship with her lasted approximately  
23 nine months?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Did you and Linda have sex during your

1 relationship?

2 A Yes. Yes, we did.

3 Q How often?

4 A Maybe six, seven times. Maybe a little more. It  
5 was never my preferred thing to do. That's a big  
6 part of why our relationship spiraled downward.

7 Q You had sex with her six or seven times because you  
8 didn't like having sex with her; is that your  
9 testimony?

10 A I didn't like that she needed me as a man to insert  
11 myself into her. That's what she needed, was a  
12 husband and a boyfriend, and I -- I couldn't be  
13 that.

14 Q Was sex pleasurable to you?

15 A Only as much as doing the dishes is. In other  
16 words, no. She could get me off as you could if  
17 you constantly touch something, but I didn't find  
18 any real arousal from on my own part. I found more  
19 enjoyment with our time of cuddling and with my  
20 time exploring her body.

21 Q You let Linda pleasure you sexually?

22 A Yes. She was usually more the man in the  
23 situation. She didn't do anything to me as a man  
24 would to a woman, but what I mean is that she was  
25 more the one on top, more the one to take charge.



1 Q And so obviously that involved your penis?

2 A Yes, unfortunately.

3 Q Do you think your issues you're describing with  
4 Linda was just because you weren't sexually  
5 attracted to her?

6 A Absolutely not. She was one of the most beautiful  
7 women I ever met.

8 Q Then why was it difficult to have sex with her?

9 A Because I had to use my penis, and I -- I have  
10 never wanted to use my penis. I don't find  
11 masturbation enjoyable and, in fact, I stopped  
12 12 years ago. It's just not for me. It's like  
13 touching a stranger. But it's attached to you and  
14 so it just feels so weird and wrong. It's very  
15 gross.

16 Q So while you were married to Linda, it's your  
17 testimony that you did not like to orgasm?

18 A I don't mind orgasming. I just didn't like the  
19 medium of how I had to orgasm.

20 Q Did you ever obtain sexual pleasure with your penis  
21 apart from Linda while you were married to her?

22 A No.

23 Q Never?

24 A There was men in my bookstore, so I'd like to  
25 correct that, who called me like, well, you're a

1 pretty girl because when I was there, I acted more  
2 feminine and so I let them touch me. And I usually  
3 though was the one, though, on my knees. Yeah, I  
4 believe that answers that.

5 Q Men in bookstore. What bookstore are you talking  
6 about?

7 A I worked in an adult bookstore. It was an easy job  
8 to get for my little -- I had education but only a  
9 GED, and it paid good. And we needed the funds to  
10 survive, pay rent, take care of Faith. I worked  
11 late hours, and my job was a janitor, to clean up  
12 the back rooms where they have sex videos. And so  
13 I'd clean up all the -- the sperm off of walls and  
14 so forth, and so that place tends to attract a lot  
15 of deviants who, because I was young, thought it  
16 would make passes and so forth.

17 Q And so in that back room above the adult bookstore  
18 you had sex with men?

19 A Yes, never using my penis. It was al- -- always me  
20 pleasuring them.

21 Q So you were never sexually aroused during those  
22 encounters?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you get any sort of sexual pleasure when you  
25 had sex with men in the bookstore?

1 A I mean, I -- I -- my time with my father made it so  
2 that I felt I was only a woman when a man used me.  
3 It was the only acceptable time to be a woman. So  
4 it brought me a certain amount of satisfaction that  
5 I was pleasuring a man like a woman would and I got  
6 to express who I was, but it also shamed me because  
7 I was being used.

8 Q Did you ever have any sexual satisfaction having  
9 sex with men in the bookstore?

10 A No.

11 Q Did you tell Linda you were transgender?

12 A No.

13 Q Did you ever talk about your gender identity with  
14 Linda?

15 A No.

16 Q Did you ever wear her clothes?

17 A When she wasn't around, numerous times. I had  
18 already learned not to express my want of  
19 expressing myself as a woman to being who I am to  
20 others.

21 Q Did you ever wear her makeup?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did she ever see you wear her makeup?

24 A Yes, but because she met me as Gothic, it wasn't so  
25 much as a questioning thing. She just figured it

1 as me being Gothic. One of the excuses I did to be  
2 Gothic was I could wear makeup.

3 Q Okay. But when you wore her clothes, she was not  
4 around?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q Did she ever catch you wearing her clothes?

7 A Nope, one of the benefits to doing laundry.

8 Q Were you in love with Linda?

9 MR. FALK: You know, I -- this is a  
10 deposition. You can go far afield. But come on,  
11 we're dealing with something in, I think, the year  
12 2000. That's not relevant to the fact that  
13 Ms. Cordellioné is transgender. So I'm going to  
14 object, but obviously you can answer.

15 A Yes. I loved Linda very much, though I have failed  
16 her obviously in the regard of Faith.

17 Q You loved Linda, but you never told her you were  
18 identifying as the opposite sex?

19 A I didn't know the terms for what I was. Every time  
20 I had tried to be open except with Autumn, it had  
21 always been met with ridicule, abuse, so I didn't  
22 know how to open up even to her. I was so afraid  
23 it would all fall apart if she knew who I really  
24 was.

25 Q So you told your high school girlfriend that you

1 identified as a girl but not your wife?

2 A Because she had always been there as a friend. We  
3 were friends first. My wife was a wife after three  
4 months.

5 Q If you could look at Exhibit 51, the second page,  
6 State 6186, please.

7 A I'm sorry. Could you repeat the -- repeat the  
8 exhibit.

9 Q Exhibit 51.

10 A Thank you.

11 Q Second page.

12 A Okay.

13 Q 6186. Are you there?

14 A Yes. Yes, I am.

15 Q Okay. In the -- that first full paragraph at the  
16 bottom, do you see where it says she caught me  
17 wearing her clothing, right in the middle toward  
18 the end?

19 A Yes, I did. I do see it.

20 Q Okay. So did she catch you wearing her -- your --  
21 her clothing?

22 A That's actually a good point. Actually, I think  
23 she did. I don't remember specifically. I don't  
24 know if he miss-typecast this. But if I put it  
25 down on here, maybe, but I believe this is what he

1 wrote, and I think that I wasn't specifically  
2 talking of her. I remember talking about getting  
3 caught by my mother and my sister. Are you sure he  
4 didn't miss-type?

5 Q Well, it sounds like you're saying now that she  
6 did --

7 A No.

8 Q -- catch you wearing her clothing?

9 A I said it might have been a possibility. That was  
10 a very long time ago for me. I don't have perfect  
11 memory, but I would say that no, she never caught  
12 me. It is written here but not by me.

13 Q Did you ever have a conversation about her that you  
14 would wear her clothes?

15 A No. She wore some of my clothes.

16 Q Apart from your high school girlfriend, before  
17 prison did you tell anyone about your transgender  
18 identity?

19 MR. FALK: Okay. I'm going to object just  
20 because I think the witness has said that she  
21 doesn't -- she did not describe it as transgender  
22 because she didn't know the terms, but I -- with  
23 that understanding.

24 A I'm sorry. Could you repeat that part?

25 MR. FALK: I'm sorry.

1 Q Before prison, did you tell anyone about your  
2 transgender identity besides your high school  
3 girlfriend?

4 A Not in the words of transgender. I mean, I openly  
5 expressed myself as a girl with my father when he  
6 abused me. I openly expressed myself as a girl in  
7 the privacy of my own area -- house, and I may have  
8 had friends that I casually mentioned liking the  
9 things that girls like and liking boys. When I was  
10 growing up, anything that wasn't straight was gay.

11 Q So you told your father and maybe some friends  
12 before prison about your identity?

13 A He knew I liked to be a girl and he used it against  
14 me.

15 Q How many friends did you tell about your identity  
16 before prison?

17 A Again, it was a very long time ago. I couldn't  
18 specifically say a name or who. I'm just giving  
19 you the broad sense that in my whole life I likely  
20 said to somebody who was my friend that I was a  
21 girl.

22 Q And you did not tell Linda that you felt like you  
23 were a girl?

24 A No, I did not. We were both living trying to be  
25 what the other person wanted.

1 Q Before prison, did you ever visit any mental health  
2 professionals?

3 A Yes. My entire childhood was mental health  
4 professionals. I came as an adoption from family  
5 abuse, so I -- I've never not seen a day where I  
6 haven't had to see psych doctors except for later  
7 on in my life now. Now, I don't have to see them.  
8 I've progressed significantly, most of it through  
9 my own work and effort, but I still suffer a lot,  
10 but it's just I've grown very well at coping, but  
11 that doesn't take away the pain I'm still dealing  
12 with.

13 Q Before prison, did you have any psychiatric  
14 diagnoses?

15 A As a child, I was never told my diagnoses [sic].  
16 They would have talked to my parents, not me.

17 Q So you don't know?

18 A No, I don't know what I specifically -- my  
19 diagnoses I would have had at the -- that young  
20 age. All I knew is I was given pills, psych pills.  
21 I don't even know what type they were. I was just  
22 told to take them.

23 Q If you can look at Exhibit 62, please.

24 (Exhibit 62.)

25 A Okay. All right.



1 MR. CARLISLE: And 62 should be the back flap.

2 MR. FALK: Thank you.

3 Q Bates stamped State 592.

4 (A discussion was held off the record.)

5 A Sorry, because this seems to stop at 61. There's  
6 this but it's not labeled. Is this it?

7 Q What's the stamp say? Yeah, that's 62.

8 A Okay. It's just got stamped. Oh, very bottom. I  
9 apologize. There we are.

10 Q Okay. Looking at 62, this appears to be the  
11 medical record from 7-22-19. Do you see that?

12 A Yes, I do.

13 Q And at this time you were housed at Correctional  
14 Industrial Facility?

15 A Yeah. It's listed as CIC, but they're also known  
16 as CIF, Correctional Industrial Facility.

17 Q Okay. And the last page states, 595, it looks like  
18 Dr. Richard Gale saw you during this visit?

19 A Yes, he did.

20 Q Are you familiar with Dr. Gale?

21 A Yes. Dr. Gale was one of the few psychologists I  
22 felt I could be open with.

23 Q Okay. If you can go to the page marked State 593,  
24 please.

25 A Okay. Here we are. I'm on that page.

1 Q Okay. Under the Subjective Information heading, do  
2 you see that the note reads Offender seen for  
3 scheduled follow-up therapy. He came in with a  
4 healthcare request in hand, #127630 --

5 A Uh-huh.

6 Q -- dated today but not screened by nursing because  
7 it had not turned -- been turned in. He says "I  
8 would like to request estrogen treatments for my  
9 transgender needs." He claims that he has felt for  
10 a long time as if he is not in the right body. Do  
11 you see that?

12 A Yes, I do.

13 Q Is this the first time you told someone at DOC  
14 about your transgender needs?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And is that note as I read accurate to your  
17 recollection?

18 A Yes. Yes, it is.

19 Q Why did you announce your transgender identity on  
20 July 22nd, 2018?

21 A We had a transgender who was in our camp. Her name  
22 was Pearl. She had been on estrogen treatments on  
23 the street, and she had feminized quite a bit.  
24 Well, I met her in the kitchen, and she got to know  
25 me and said, hey, do you know what a transgender